

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 2310

BUCHAREST FOR NIMETZ AND HOPPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, SHUM, CY
SUBJECT: NIMETZ VISIT TO CYPRUS: MISSING PERSONS DISCUSSION

1. NIMETZ RAISED MISSING PERSONS QUESTION WITH GOC DURING SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING WITH ROLANDIS AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. HE STRESSED THAT WE REGARDED THIS AS A PURELY HUMANITARIAN ISSUE, THAT WE HAD SUPPORTED THE UN RESOLUTION ON FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE WITH ICRC PARTICIPATION, AND THAT WE EARNESTLY HOPED THAT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES COULD SHORTLY BE REACHED. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GOC WAS WORKING WITH THE UN AND THE ICRC ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE WERE PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL IF CALLED UPON.

2. ROLANDIS RECALLED AMBASSADOR MEZVINSKY'S SUGGESTION IN
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NEW YORK LAST MAY THAT THE ICRC WOULD BE PREPARED IN ITS LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP TO UNDERTAKE TO EXPRESS AN INDEPENDENT VIEWPOINT AS NECESSARY. IN SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIONS, THE ICRC HAD AGREED TO THIS. THE PANCYPRIAN COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS HAD THEN ASKED WHETHER STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT ANY INDEPENDENT OPINION REACHED BY THE ICRC; THE ICRC HAD INDICATED THAT

THIS, TOO, WAS ACCEPTABLE.

3. THE COMMITTEE, ROLANDIS CONTINUED, HAD THEN PROPOSED THAT THE MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION BE PLACED UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UN RATHER THAN THE ICRC. THEY FELT THAT THE UN FRAMEWORK WOULD BE "SAFER" AND WOULD OFFER MORE HOPE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT DECISIONS. THIS IDEA WAS BRIEFLY EXPLORED IN NEW YORK. WALDHEIM'S VIEW SEEMED TO BE THAT, SINCE THE UN RESOLUTION OF LAST FALL SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE ICRC, HE DID NOT HAVE ANY MANDATE TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THIS ISSUE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE ICRC, WHO WAS IN CYPRUS EARLIER IN WEEK, HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE THE UN INVOLVED IN THE MISSING PERSONS QUESTION, AND WOULD BE READY TO LEND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. NIMETZ SAID THAT WE FELT THAT THE ICRC WAS THE PROPER AGENCY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE. THEY HAD THE EXPERTISE AND WERE FULLY PREPARED TO ASSIST. WE BELIEVED THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND THE ICRC LETTER -- THE PRODUCT OF MUCH HARD WORK -- ADEQUATELY PROTECTED THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES AND REPRESENTED PERHAPS THE BEST AGREEMENT THAT COULD BE REACHED. TO REOPEN THE WHOLE MATTER NOW WOULD MEAN FURTHER DELAY IN ORGANIZING AN INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE AND A PROLONGATION OF THE PAIN AND ANGUISH ON BOTH SIDES. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TURKS, NO DOUBT, WOULD VIEW THIS ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE UN AS PURELY A POLITICAL GESTURE. IN SUM, NIMETZ URGED THAT THE GOC NOT PURSUE THE UN PATH BUT RATHER REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE MECHANISM ALREADY DEVISED.

5. NIMETZ AND AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF PAN-CYPRIAN MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE AT EMBASSY. MEMBERS OF DELEGATION SAID THEY APPRECIATED USG EFFORTS TO HELP ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE, HAD AGREED WITH GOC THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MISSING PERSONS ISSUE, AND HOPED PRESIDENT CARTER AND USG WOULD CONTINUE TO LEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO HELP RESOLVE ISSUE ONCE AND FOR ALL. NIMETZ SAID USG HAD WORKED ACTIVELY TO ENCOURAGE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR 1977 UNGA RESOLUTION. IN OUR VIEW, CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS PROBLEM WAS HUMANITARIAN RATHER THAN POLITICAL MATTER. WE THOUGHT COMMITTEE COULD BE SET UP QUICKLY ON BASIS EXTENSIVE WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AND THAT RED CROSS AND UN WOULD BE INVOLVED. IF COMMITTEE DID NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY IT COULD BE CHANGED. WE AGREED THAT MISSING PERSONS ISSUE SHOULD BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY. NIMETZ SAID

WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH GOC, ICRC, UN AS WELL AS GOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS; WE WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL IF CALLED UPON BUT GOC MUST FIRST REACH SOME DECISIONS. REPS OF CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT COMMITTEE MUST BE ABLE TO FUNCTION IN ORDER TO REACH RESULTS; THEY THOUGHT COMMITTEE UNDER UN PRESIDENCY WITH RED CROSS COOPERATION OFFERED BEST SUCH PROSPECT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 2310

BUCHAREST FOR NIMETZ AND HOPPER

6. NIMETZ DISCUSSED MISSING PERSONS ISSUE IN MEETING WITH SRSG GALINDO-POHL AND DSRSG GORGE LATER SEPTEMBER 5. THEY WERE FULLY INFORMED ON LATEST GOC EFFORTS TO OBTAIN UN PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED COMMITTEE. PELAGHIAS HAD TOLD GALINDO-POHL THAT GOC WOULD LIKE TO SEE SYG DESIGNATE THIRD MEMBER OF COMMITTEE AND TO HAVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO SYG AND SECURITY COUNCIL EVERY THREE MONTHS. ICRC WOULD BE ASKED TO LEND EXPERT ADVICE. NIMETZ SAID THAT IN OUR VIEW ICRC WAS PROPER AGENCY TO ENGAGE IN MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION, AND THAT NEW GOC SUGGESTION WOULD NOT HELP ACHIEVE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE. HE NOTED THAT UN, AND ESPECIALLY SRSG, WOULD BE IN AWKWARD

AND PERHPAS EMBARRASSING POSITION SHOULD IT UNDERTAKE TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN COMMITTEE. NIMETZ URGED THAT GALINDO-POHL DO HIS BEST TO DIRECT MISSING PERSONS EFFORT
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BACK INTO SOUND ICRC FORMAT.

7. NIMETZ BRIEFLY RAISED MISSING PERSONS QUESTION IN COURSE OF SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH. HE NOTED OUR BELIEF THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ICRC LETTER SHOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES AS THEY PRESENTLY STOOD, AND ASKED WHETHER DENKTASH WAS NOW PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THE AGREEMENT. DENKTASH INDICATED THAT HE WISHED TO GET ON WITH A MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION, AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP TO IRON OUT THE FEW REMAINING PROBLEMS. NIMETZ ENDORSED QUIET NEGOTIATIONS PERHAPS THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE SRSG AS A WAY OF REACHING FINAL AGREEMENT. HE MENTIONED THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THEIR MISSING PERSONS GROUP, AND WERE NOW CONSIDERING INVOLVING THE UN AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROSPECTIVE COMMITTEE. DENKTASH EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE PANCYPRIAN GROUP WAS CAUSING PROBLEMS. HE HAD TALKED WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT GROUP NOT TOO LONG AGO, AND HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE WAS UNAWARE OF GOC INSISTENCE ON VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE AND WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER THIS ISSUE. DENKTASH ADDED THAT HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ON THIS MATTER, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE LATTER WERE ENGAGED SIMPLY IN A PROPAGANDA EXERCISE.
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